

## USDA Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR)

USFS-SR operates at SRS under terms of Interagency Agreement No. DE-A10900SR2188. This agreement provides a natural resources management program, which includes protecting natural resources and site improvement from wildland fire and smoke.

Approximately 90% of the 200,000-acre Savannah River Site is forested. This vegetation is subject to wildland fire any day of the year. Wildland fire can come from several sources, including lightning, and human causes, such as off-site debris burning, equipment use, firing ranges, and railroads.

USFS-SR has a comprehensive wildland fire program, which maintains an on-site year-round initial action capability with dedicated firefighting forces and equipment to protect natural resources and site improvements from wildland fire and smoke either on SRS or on adjacent areas that threaten SRS. This program complements the SRS Fire Department, which has primary structural protection responsibilities.

USFS-SR brings the expertise and resources of the National Forest System to SRS. Approximately 25 experienced, qualified personnel are dedicated to fire suppression and management with state-of-the-art equipment. Another additional 10 personnel are available on-site as support in the event of a major fire.

USFS-SR has agreements with national forests, state agencies, other Federal agencies and local municipalities to accomplish fire program objectives. USFS-SR uses the 'closest forces' concept, including resources such as WSRC, South Carolina Forestry Commission, and national forest resources within South Carolina and Georgia. USFS-SR also partners with WSI for helicopter support onsite.

In addition to suppressing wildland fires, USFS-SR uses prescribed fires as a tool to prevent large, damaging wildland fires. These prescribed fires are done under suitable meteorological parameters and fuel conditions (including smoke dispersion) to reduce hazardous fuel buildup and to improve wildlife habitat. Occasionally, temporary road closures/detours are needed.

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December 2003

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